

"It is our duty to remember"

Washington, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence released the following statement in honor of Memorial Day. Congressman Pence will be participating in a Memorial Day service and parade in New Castle on Monday:

"I rise today to pay a debt to those we could never repay...the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, both past and present. It was their duty to serve, and on Memorial Day 2009, it is our duty to remember.

"In a tradition that began just three years after the end of the Civil War, Americans set aside the 30th day of May each year to remember the sacrifice made by our service men and women who died while defending freedom.

"On May 30, 1868, flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. That practice has continued for more than 130 years as millions of Americans have laid flowers on the graves of soldiers from World War II, Vietnam and as recently as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I would like to pay special remembrance today to the soldiers, marines and guardsmen from the Sixth Congressional District of Indiana who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"These brave men, like those who went before them, made the ultimate sacrifice so that Americans can enjoy the freedoms we treasure.

"I urge every Hoosier to take an hour on Memorial Day to attend a local service remembering our fallen heroes and the families who have made our freedom possible. We must 'mourn with those who mourn' and pray for our soldiers who have laid down a sacrifice for freedom from Valley Forge to the mountains of Jalalabad. This is their day.

This is their memorial."

IN06 US Service Members Killed in Iraq

Matthew R. Smith

Smith died May 10, 2003, in a vehicle accident in Kuwait.

Age: 20 **Hometown:** Anderson, Ind.

Died: 05/10/2003

Service: Marine Corps **Rank:** Lance Corporal (E-3)

Unit: reservist, assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Peru, Ind.

Shawn D. Pahnke

Pahnke was killed June 16, 2003, by a sniper while on patrol.

Age: 25 **Hometown:** Shelbyville, Ind.

Died: 06/16/2003

Service: Army **Rank:** Private (E-2)

Unit: Company C, 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany

Chad L. Keith

Keith was killed July 7, 2003, when a roadside bomb exploded as his unit patrolled the streets of Baghdad.

Age: 21 **Hometown:** Batesville, Ind.

Died: 07/07/2003

Service: Army Rank: Specialist (E-4)

Unit: 2-325th Infantry, Company D, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Frederick L. Miller, Jr.

Miller was killed Sept. 20, 2003, when an improvised explosive device hit his vehicle.

Age: 27 **Hometown:** Hagerstown, Ind.

Died: 09/20/2003

Service: Army Rank: Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Unit: Troop K, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.

Robert E. Colvill, Jr.

Colvill was among five soldiers killed July 8, 2004, in Baghdad. All were in the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters when it came under a mortar attack.

Age: 31 **Hometown:** Anderson, Ind.

Died: 07/08/2004

Service: Army Rank: Sergeant (E-5)

Unit: 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany

Raymond L. White

White died Nov. 12, 2004, in Baghdad when his patrol was attacked with small arms fire.

Age: 22 **Hometown:** Elwood, Ind.

Died: 11/12/2004

Service: Army Rank: Specialist (E-4)

Unit: 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Armor), 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas

Scott Zubowski

Zubowski died when a roadside bomb exploded during combat operations near Fallujah in Iraq's Al Anbar province on Nov. 12, 2005.

Age: 20 **Hometown:** Manchester, Ind. **Boyhood Hometown:** New Castle, Ind.

Died: 11/12/2005

Service: Marine Corps Rank: Lance Corporal (E-3)

Unit: 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force

Michael A. Bechert

Bechert was mortally wounded when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq on May 30, 2007. He was transferred to Fort Sam Houston Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, where he died on June 14, 2007.

Age: 24 **Hometown:** Schweinfurt, Germany **Boyhood Hometown:** New Castle, Ind.

Died: 06/14/2007

Service: Army Rank: Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Unit: 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany

Johnathan A. Lahmann

Lahmann was mortally wounded when a vehicle-borne IED detonated near his vehicle in Bayji, Iraq on December 10, 2007. He was transferred to Tikrit, Iraq, where he died later that day.

Age: 21 **Hometown:** Richmond, Ind.

Died: 12/10/2007

Service: Army Rank: Specialist (E-4)

Unit: 59th Engineer Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

Brian Keith Miller

Miller died from injuries suffered when his vehicle overturned in Abd Allah, Iraq.

Age: 37 **Hometown:** Pendleton, Ind.

Died: 08/02/2008

Service: Indiana Army National Guard Rank: Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Unit: D Company, 1st Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Huntington, Ind.

William Justin McClellan

McClellan died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. where he was being treated for injuries sustained Jan. 10, 2008 when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Iraq. An Army spokeswoman told the AP that his injuries had not been considered life-threatening and the cause of his death is under investigation.

Age: 22 **Hometown:** Clarksville, Tenn. **Boyhood Hometown:** New Castle, Ind.

Died: 11/06/2008

Service: Army Rank: Specialist (E-4)

Unit: Alpha Company, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky

IN06 US Soldiers Killed in Afghanistan

Jeremy Wright

Wright died when an improvised explosive device struck his military vehicle.

Age: 31 **Hometown:** Shelybville, Ind.

Died: 01/03/2005

Service: Army Rank: Sergeant (E-5)

Unit: 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Fort Lewis, Washington

Michael Hiester

Hiester died when his military vehicle struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan

Age: 33 **Hometown:** Bluffton, Ind.

Died: 03/26/2005

Service: Indiana Army National Guard Rank: Master Sergeant (E-8)

Unit: 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Indianapolis

Layton Bradly Crass

Crass died when a roadside bomb exploded near his military vehicle in Farah Province, Afghanistan.

Age: 22 **Hometown:** Richmond, Ind.

Died: 06/14/2008

Service: Marine Corps Rank: Lance Corporal (E-3)

Unit: G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California

Andrew Francis Whitacre

Whitacre died while conducting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan.

Age: 21 **Hometown:** Bryant, Ind.

Died: 06/19/2008

Service: Marine Corps Rank: Lance Corporal (E-3)

Unit: G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, California